

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

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TO: West Germany/Italy/France	REPORT NO: CS-3/343,172
FROM: Ing. Rolf Engel and His Associates Joint Rocket Development Program of West Germany, Italy, and France	DATE DISR: 31 JAN 1958
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SOURCE: West German businessmen (F). Appraisal of Content: 3.
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1. Ing. Rolf Engel, born in Metz on 10 August 1912, a German space and guided missile research specialist working for the Italian government organization Sispres, is much interested in a joint rocket development program to be undertaken by Germany, Italy, and France. He came to West Germany about ten days before the NATO Conference in December 1957, with an Italian general apparently to discuss with the West German Defense Ministry a program by which the three countries could cooperate on rocket developmental work to avoid duplication of research and eventually to develop standardized rockets for the use of the NATO countries. One of the Germans who participated in the conference was Dipl. Ing. Ludwig Boelkow, head of the Boelkow Corporation of Stuttgart, with whom Engel has been in touch on another joint program.² According to an associate of Boelkow, no joint work has yet been undertaken by the three countries, but plans to organize the developmental program are under consideration.³
2. During World War II, Engel headed a solid-fuel research and development center in the Danzig area under the German government. His team was later moved to a development center near Pribran, in the vicinity of Prague, and toward the end of the war to Munich, where it continued working until the American occupation of the area. At this point, Engel moved to the French Zone of Germany for a short time and in 1947 went to Paris to work for ONERA, a French government organization concerned with rocket development. He employed German technicians for some of his ballistic and trajectory work there.
3. In 1952, Engel accepted a job with the Egyptian government and moved to Cairo, where he remained until the summer of 1957. In Egypt, as in Paris, he employed a number of German engineers and technicians, some of whom came from Paris with him. Engel left Cairo in July 1957 to take a position with Sispres.

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Engel's reputation in West Germany is not very good, but he apparently wishes to return to Germany and reestablish himself there. He keeps his extensive library on rockets and missiles at Munich, where his wife has been living since she left Egypt with her husband in July 1957.

1. Field Comment: A brief account of this firm and of Engel's connections was given in
2. Field Comment: This concerns Italian manufacture of the COBRA rocket.
3. Field Comment: Plans for a joint program along these lines were publicly announced on 8 January 1958.